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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-sixth meeting
Geneva, 31 March 2015
Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the
Inland Transport Committee

Decision approving the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks

Background

1. The Inland Transport Committee, at its seventy-seventh session (24-26 February 2015), decided to recommend to the Executive Committee to approve: a) the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks for two more years; b) its revised terms of reference as contained in the Annex; and c) the change of the name of the Group to "Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes".

Draft Decision

2. The Executive Committee, at is seventy-sixth meeting on 31 March 2015, approves:

a) the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks from 2015 until 2017;

b) its revised terms of reference as contained in the Annex; and

c) the change of the name of the Group to "Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes".

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Annex

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes

I. Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. In line with the recommendations of the report of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks published in December 2013, the Group of Experts, renamed as 'Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes' will focus its work on the following issues:

(a) Identify and establish if possible inventories of transport networks in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region which are vulnerable to climate change impacts, if possible in a geographic information system (GIS) environment;

(b) Use/develop models, methodologies, tools and good practices to address potential extreme hazards (e.g. high temperatures and floods) to selected inland transport infrastructure in the ECE region under different scenarios of climate change;

(c) Identification and analysis of case studies focusing on the potential economic, social, and environmental consequences of the climate change impacts and provide a cost/benefit analysis of the adaptation options.

2. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on the ECE previous work in this field, in particular the output of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks and its final report – a publication (ECE/TRANS/238) and recommendations published in 2013 and adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 20).

II. Methods of work

3. The Group of Experts will function in accordance with the ECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.

4. The Group of Experts is expected to meet twice in 2015, at least twice in 2016 and at least once in 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) at its thirtieth session (September 2017, Geneva). This report shall also contain proposals for monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.

5. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by ECE for all sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

6. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. All intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as all railway companies, freight and forwarding industries interested in the event are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

III. Secretariat

7. ECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Global Framework for Climate Services, the World Meteorological Organization, the European Commission, the regional commissions of the United Nations, and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.